(SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of passenger booked from 1st January, 2003 till 30th June, 2004 in various trains originating from Delhi/New Delhi/ Hazrat Nizammudin in 1AC, 2AC & 3AC to various destinations in the country are as under:

Period	Number of passengers booked in		
	1-AC	2-AC	3-AC
January 2003 to June 2004	1,28,536	6,52,516	19,41,535

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Samjhauta Express

1156. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to improve the condition in 'Samjhauta Express[1] to Lahore;

(b) whether there is a proposal to have discussions with Railways authorities of Pakistan to send a direct train to Karachi;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open a Rail line to Pakistan *via* Rajasthan; and

(d) the reasons why there is no 1st and 2nd AC provided in the 'Samjhauta Express'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Cleanliness and maintenance of the train is a continuous process with the objective of improving the conditions of Samjhauta Express.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No such demand has been received.

Accountability on Safety Issues

1157. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) why does the Commissioner of Rail Safety probe accidents with an air of secrecy and delays the submission of its report;

(b) whether the lack of accountability of the Railways on the issue of safety needs to be urgently addressed; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The statutory inquiries into the accidents by the Commissioner of Railway Safety are held after notifying date, time and venue in the press inviting persons having any information to give evidence. Preliminary reports are given within 10-15 days including provisional findings which are released to the Press. This is followed by a detailed report in about three months.

(b) and (c) Safety is given paramount importance on Indian Railways and every effort is made to prevent accidents. Acts of omission and Commission, if any, on the part of railway staff are taken up and responsibility fixed for lapses not only resulting into accidents but also detected during routine checks and inspections.

Exports from VSP

1158. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a policy to encourage export of steel from Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant.

(b) whether it is a fact that the Port based Steel Plant at Vishakhapatnam has good scope for concentrating on export;